

Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

1.A method of handling a telephone call received by a first telephone system, the method comprising:
the first telephone system receiving a telephone call from a second telephone system;
determining if the second telephone system is capable of receiving data messages in response to receiving the telephone call; and
the first telephone system sending a data message to the second telephone system in response to determining that the second telephone system is capable of receiving data messages.

[c2] 2.The method of claim 1 wherein determining if the second telephone system is capable of receiving data messages comprises the first telephone system successfully identifying a telephone number of the second telephone system.

[c3] 3.The method of claim 1 further comprising the first telephone system completing the telephone call with the second telephone system to accept voice data for a mailbox of the first telephone system in response to deter-

mining that the second telephone system is not capable of receiving data messages.

[c4] 4.The method of claim 1 wherein the data message is a textual message.

[c5] 5.The method of claim 1 wherein the data message is a video message.

[c6] 6.The method of claim 1 wherein the data message is a Short Messaging Service (SMS) message.

[c7] 7.The method of claim 1 wherein the data message is an Enhanced Messaging Service (EMS) message.

[c8] 8.The method of claim 1 wherein the data message is a Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS)

9.The method of claim 1 wherein the first telephone system comprises a mobile telephone and a base station, and the base station determines if the second telephone system is capable of receiving data messages.

[c9] 10.The method of claim 9 further comprising the base station connecting the telephone call with a voice mailbox of the mobile telephone in response to determining that the second telephone system is not capable of receiving data messages.

[c10] 11.The method of claim 1 wherein determining if the

second telephone system is capable of receiving data messages comprises determining if a user device originating the telephone call in the second telephone system is capable of accepting data messages.